			Page 1 of 6
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2 3 4 5	FRED M. BLUM, ESQ. (SBN 1015860 RUBEN RUIZ, ESQ. (SBN 241729) BASSI, MARTINI, EDLIN & BLUM LLP 351 California Street, Suite 200 San Francisco, CA 94104 Telephone: (415) 397-9006 Facsimile: (415) 397-1339 Attorneys for Defendants GEOSTAR CORPORATION, GEOSTAR FINAN	RICIAL SERVICES CORPOR	FILED 2008 AUG 14 P 3 B8 RICHARD W. WIERING CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT NO. DIST. OF CA. S. J. LATION, AND
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8	UNITED STATES D	LING ISTRICT COURT	
9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF		and the second second
o {[C08 038	898 PVT
1		Case No.	
	in their capacity as Trustees of THE PETER) FORTENBAUGH TRUST, a California Trust,)	GEOSTAR CORPORATIO FINANCIAL SERVICES	ON, GEOSTAR
4	Plaintiffs,	CORPORATION, AND TO FERGUSON'S NOTICE O	DNY F REMOVAL
5		FROM STATE TO FEDER	
6	INC., a Delaware Corporation, GEOSTAR	Superior Court of the State of County of Santa Clara Case No. 107CV084507	f California
9	Defendants.		
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3	TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE UP	NITED STATES DISTRICT	r court for
4	THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORM	NIA:	
5	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that purs	suant to Title 28 United States	s Code sections
6	1441 and 1332, Defendants GEOSTAR CORPOR	<u>ATION</u> ("GEOSTAR"), <u>GE</u>	OSTAR
7	FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION ("GF	S"), and <u>TONY FERGUSON</u>	I'S, an individual,
8	("FERGUSON") (collectively "NEW DEFENDA"	NTS"), hereby remove this ac	ction from the
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Superior Court of the State of California, County of Santa Clara, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. 28 U.S.C.A. §§1441. (West 2008). Co-defendant CLASSICSTAR FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. ("CLASSICSTAR") joins NEW DEFENDANTS in this Notice of Removal. The grounds for removal are particularly stated as follows:

- 2. On July 15, 2008, Plaintiffs PETER FORTENBAUGH and BETTY LEE, in their capacity as Trustees of THE PETER FORTENBAUGH TRUST ("FORTENBAUGH") filed this First Amended Complaint ("FAC") in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Santa Clara, Case No. 107CV084507 against NEW DEFENDANTS. A true and correct copy of FORTENBAUGH's FAC is attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Ruben Ruiz in Support of Geostar Corporation, Geostar Financial Services Corporation, and Tony Ferguson's Notice of Removal from State to Federal Court. ("Ruiz Decl.").
- 3. FORTENBAUGH's initial Complaint was filed on April 24, 2007 in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Santa Clara, Case No. 107CV084507 against original Defendant CLASSICSTAR. A true and correct copy of FORTENBAUGH's original Complaint is attached as Exhibit B to the Ruiz Decl.
- In response to FORTENBAUGH's original Complaint, CLASSICSTAR filed an Answer and Cross-Claim on July 9, 2007. Id. at ¶4. CLASSICSTAR filed a Voluntarily Dismissal of its Cross-Claim on August 12, 2008. A true and correct copy of CLASSICSTAR's Voluntary Dismissal is attached as Exhibit C to the Ruiz Decl.
- 5 In addition, FIRST SOURCE WYOMING, INC. ("FSW"), a second crossclaimant, filed a permissive cross-claim against FORTENBAUGH for unjust enrichment on July 9, 2007. Id. at ¶6. FSW filed a Voluntarily Dismissal of its Cross-Claim on August 12, 2008. A true and correct copy of FSW's Voluntary Dismissal is attached as Exhibit D to the Ruiz Decl.
- 6. FORTENBAUGH's FAC sets forth five causes of action: breach of contract against GEOSTAR and CLASSICSTAR, unjust enrichment against GEOSTAR and CLASSICSTAR, breach of contract against GEOSTAR and GFS, deceit/fraud against FERGUSON, and negligent misrepresentation against FERGUSON. Ruiz Decl. Ex. A ¶24-81.

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NEW DEFENDANTS received FORTENBAUGH'S FAC and were able to first ascertain that

the case is one which may be removed to federal court. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(West 2008).

This Notice of Removal is being filed within thirty days from the date upon which

On July 15, 2008, NEW DEFENDANTS were served with copies of the FAC.

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- Ruiz Decl., Ex. A. These were the first "papers" within the meaning of Title 28 United States Code sections 1441 and 1332, from which NEW DEFENDANTS were able to ascertain that this case is removable. Specifically, these papers demonstrate the existence of complete diversity of citizenship and that the matter in controversy exceeds the statutory minimum.
 - 9. For diversity to exist, diversity must exist at the time of filing the original complaint, and at the time removal is effected. Strotek Corp. v. Air Transport Ass'n of America, 300 F.3rd 1129, 1130-31 (9th Cir. 2002).
 - 10. The federal district courts have "original jurisdiction of all civil actions where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interests and costs and between -- (1) citizens of different States " 28 U.S.C.A. §1332(a).
 - 11. A "corporation shall be deemed a citizen of any State by which it has been incorporated and of the State where it has its principal place of business. ... " 28 U.S.C.A. §1332(c)(1).
 - 12. For a natural person "[t]o show state citizenship for diversity purposes under federal common law a party must (1) be a citizen of the United States, and (2) be domiciled in the state." Kantor v. Wellesley Galleries, Ltd., 704 F.2d 1088, 1090, (9th Cir. 1983); 28 U.S.C.A. §1332(a), stating "an alien admitted to the United States for permanent residence shall be deemed a citizen of the State in which such alien is domiciled."
 - 13. Where legal action on behalf of a trust is taken by the trustee as the real party in interest to the controversy, diversity jurisdiction is determined by the citizenship of the trustee. Navarro Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Lee, 446 U.S. 458, 465-66 (1980).
 - 14. Defendant GEOSTAR is not a citizen of California. GEOSTAR is a corporation incorporated in the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Geostar Corporation, Geostar Financial Services Corporation, and Tony Ferguson's Request for Judicial Notice. ("NEW DEFENDANTS Request for Judicial Notice"); Declaration 48744

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of Milton Evans, Jr. For Geostar Corporation in Support of Defendants Geostar Corporation. Geostar Financial Corporation, and Tony Ferguson's Notice of Removal of Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint ¶2-3.

- 15. Defendant GFS is not a citizen of California. GFS is a corporation incorporated in the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. NEW DEFENDANTS Request for Judicial Notice; Declaration of Milton Evans, Jr. For Geostar Financial Services Corporation in Support of Defendants Geostar Corporation, Geostar Financial Corporation, and Tony Ferguson's Notice of Removal of Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint ¶2.
- 16. Defendant CLASSICSTAR is not a citizen of California. CLASSICSTAR is a corporation incorporated in the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. NEW DEFENDANTS Request for Judicial Notice; Ruiz Decl. Ex A. ¶2.
- Defendant FERGUSON is a natural person who is not a citizen of California. 17. FERGUSON is a United States citizen domiciled in the state of Florida. Declaration of Tony Ferguson in Support of Defendants Geostar Corporation, Geostar Financial Corporation, and Tony Ferguson's Notice of Removal of Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint ¶3-5.
- 18. NEW DEFENDANTS are informed and believe Plaintiff FORTENBAUGH is a California citizen. FOERTENBAUGH is a California Trust whose trustees Peter Fortenbaugh and Betty Lee bring the FAC. NEW DEFENDANTS are informed and believe, both Peter Fortenbaugh and Betty Lee are United States citizens domiciled in California, or in the alternative, they are resident aliens domiciled California. Peter Fortenbaugh and Betty Lee reside in Santa Clara County, California. Ruiz Decl. Ex A. ¶1.
- 19. This Court has original jurisdiction over this matter because the amount in controversy exceeds \$6,793,468.49 and complete diversity exists between the parties. Id. Ex. A ¶¶34, 38, 46, 73, and 81; Prayer ¶1.
- 20. This action arose in Santa Clara, California. Therefore the proper district court is the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Id. Ex. A.
- 21. Promptly after the filing of this Notice of Removal in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, written notice of such filing and supporting 48744

documents will be given by the undersigned to counsel for FORTENBAUGH, including Request for Judicial Notice, and supporting declarations of Ruben Ruiz, Milton J. Evans Jr., and Tony
Ferguson. A written notice and will also be filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the
State of California, in and for the County of Santa Clara, along with supporting documents.

Attached as Exhibit E (without exhibits) to Ruiz Decl.

WHEREFORE, NEW DEFENDANTS respectfully request that this action now pending in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Santa Clara be removed to this Court and that further proceedings be conducted in this Court as provided by law.

Date: August 14, 2008

BASSI, MARTINI, EDLIN & BLUM LLP

By

RUBEN P. RUIZ

Attorneys for Defendants

GEOSTAR CORPORATION, GEOSTAR

FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION, AND

TONY FERGUSON

Ш

PETER FORTENBAUGH and BETTY LEE, in their capacity as Trustees of THE PETER FORTENBAUGH TRUST, a California Trust v. CLASSICSTAR Re: 1 FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., a Delaware Corporation and DOES 1 through 30, 2 inclusive Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 107CV084507 3 PROOF OF SERVICE - CCP §1013(a)(3) 4 5 STATE OF CALIFORNIA/COUNTY OF San Francisco I am a citizen of the United States and an employee in the County of San Francisco. I am 6 over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action. My business address is BASSI, MARTINI, EDLIN & BLUM LLP, 351 California Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, 7 California 94104. 8 On the date set forth below, I served the within: 9 GEOSTAR CORPORATION, GEOSTAR FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION, AND TONY FERGUSON'S NOTICE OF REMOVAL FROM STATE TO FEDERAL COURT 10 on the following parties: 11 HOWARD RICE, et al. 12 Jeremy Kamras, Esq. Three Embarcadero Center, 7th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-4021 13 14 BY PERSONAL SERVICE: I caused a copy of said documents to be hand delivered to 15 the interested party at the address set forth above. 16 BY MAIL: I caused such envelope to be deposited in the mail at San Francisco, California. I am readily familiar with the firm's practice for collection and processing of 17 correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day in the ordinary course of business. 18 BY FEDERAL EXPRESS: I caused such envelope to be deposited in the appropriate 19 Federal Express envelope, to the Federal Express office located at 120 Bush Street, San Francisco, California 94104, to be delivered by the next business day. I am readily 20 familiar with the firm's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for transmittal by Federal Express. It is deposited with Federal Express on that same day in 21 the ordinary course of business. 22 BY FACSIMILE: I caused said documents to be sent via facsimile to the interested 23 party at the facsimile number set forth below. 24 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document is executed on August 14, 2008, at San Francisco, California. 25 26 ALISHA C. PEMBER 27 28

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%JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS						
(b) County of Residence o	[nta Clara, CA	OF		(IN U.S. PLAINTIFI	CASE	s only) sethe location of the
(c) Attorney's (Firm Non	ne, Address, and Telephone N	lumber)		Attemeys (1f Kno	wn)		
Jeremy Kamras, E Three Embarcader San Francisco, CA	o Center, 7th Fl.			C	& Ruben Rui	0	3898
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2 U.S. Government Defendant				Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal 5 5 5 of Business In Another State			
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VI. CAUSE OF ACT 28 U.S.C. § 1441, 1332 VII. REQUESTED II COMPLAINT:	Do not eite jurisdiction	ne under which you are fi al statutes unless diversity IIS IS A CLASS ACT P. 23	·)		CHECK Y JURY DE	•	r if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CA		JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		SIGNATURE OF A					
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JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 3/99)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b.) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States, are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS-44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section IV below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date,

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a) Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause.
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS-44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

PETER FORTENBAUGH and BETTY LEE, in their capacity as Trustees of THE Re: 1 PETER FORTENBAUGH TRUST, a California Trust v. CLASSICSTAR FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC., a Delaware Corporation and DOES 1 through 30, 2 inclusive Santa Clara County Superior Court Case No. 107CV084507 3 4 PROOF OF SERVICE - CCP §1013(a)(3) 5 STATE OF CALIFORNIA/COUNTY OF San Francisco 6 I am a citizen of the United States and an employee in the County of San Francisco. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and not a party to the within action. My business address is BASSI, MARTINI, EDLIN & BLUM LLP, 351 California Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, 7 California 94104. 8 9 On the date set forth below. I served the within: 10 CIVIL COVER SHEET 11 on the following parties: 12 HOWARD RICE, et al. Jeremy Kamras, Esq. Three Embarcadero Center, 7th Floor 13 San Francisco, CA 94111-4021 14 15 BY PERSONAL SERVICE: I caused a copy of said documents to be hand delivered to the interested party at the address set forth above. 16 BY MAIL: I caused such envelope to be deposited in the mail at San Francisco. 17 California. I am readily familiar with the firm's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day 18 in the ordinary course of business. 19 BY FEDERAL EXPRESS: I caused such envelope to be deposited in the appropriate Federal Express envelope, to the Federal Express office located at 120 Bush Street, San 20 Francisco, California 94104, to be delivered by the next business day. I am readily 21 familiar with the firm's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for transmittal by Federal Express. It is deposited with Federal Express on that same day in 22 the ordinary course of business. 23 BY FACSIMILE: I caused said documents to be sent via facsimile to the interested party at the facsimile number set forth below. 24 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this 25 document is executed on August 14, 2008, at San Francisco, California. 26 27 PEMBER ALISHA C. 28